

**REMARKS**

**Allowable Subject Matter:**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 20-23 and 26-29 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if written in independent form.

Thus, Applicant has amended claim 18 to be simply claim 21 written in independent form, and submits that this claim and all of its dependent claims are allowable.

Further, Applicant has added new independent claims 33, 36, 38 and 40-43, which are simply allowable claims 20, 22, 23 and 26-29 written in independent form. Thus, Applicant submits that these claims, and their respective dependant claims are also in allowable condition.

Applicant further notes that the amended and new independent claims are simply original claims written in independent form, and that with respect to these original claims, no narrowing amendments have been made. As such, the original scope and spirit of these claims have been unchanged.

**Claim Rejections:**

As Applicant has cancelled all of the non-elected claims and all of the pending claims contain allowable subject matter, as indicated by the Examiner, Applicant submits that the present application is in fully allowable condition.

**Conclusion:**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

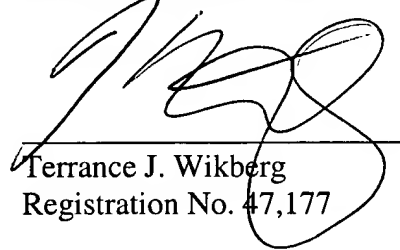
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116  
Application Number: 09/987,673

Our Ref: A8126  
Art Unit: 1734

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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